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soon had it not been for the effective work of that noted political organization, "The Anti-Corn Law League." Perhaps never before was the efficiency of well-directed organized effort more clearly demonstrated in promoting a reform than was the case with the League's propagandism.

Richard Cobden's public work is a striking indication of the possibilities of rational reform under popular government. Into the cold facts and deductions of the "dismal science" he infused a warmth and light and earnest patriotic zeal that made them living things to the people of England. His success proves that the most complicated subjects in economics and finance can be so presented to the masses, that the most profound truths can be assimilated by them and utilized in the betterment of human relations through conscious social and political reform. The United States has just witnessed a remarkable campaign of education and the hopes of the believers in the stability of democratic government have been greatly strengthened. Cobden's career demonstrates that the chief requisites to realizing a needed reform are full knowledge of the subject in all its relations, lucid and persuasive speech and enduring earnestness and honesty in its promotion.

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Der Staat und sein Boden. By FRIEDRICH RATZEL. Publications of the Royal Scientific Society of Saxony. Vol. xvii, No. iv. Pp. 127. Leipzig: S. Hirzel, 1896.

Professor Ratzel's book is worthy an extended notice, not only for what it contains, but also for what it promises. In the four papers which it includes we have a valuable contribution to that neglected field of social phenomena which concerns the influence of man's environment upon the political institutions which he has developed, and suggestions which may in time lead to the birth of a new science. The author arraigns the conventional political science, because it proceeds to "dissect the state as something dead, represents it as a skeleton, treats its phenomena of growth and decline—practically so important—as if here a piece of land were cut off from a private estate and there one were added," and maintains that, "deeper insight into the subject is possible only through the study of the living political organism. We can describe and measure a political boundary ever so exactly, but its real importance for the state and the importance of every one of its features will be comprehended only when it has been conceived as the peripheral organ of a political organism. Area may be determined ever so accurately, but its value to the state can be

understood only through the comparative study of areas in growing and declining states, in communities of primitive tribes and in the most modern civilized countries."

The author's conclusion may be summarized as follows: Political geography will be barren of any results until the geographer is animated by the idea that the state is an organism, indissolubly connected with the earth's surface, deeply rooted in the soil, modified in its character and growth by its geographic environment, finding the ground beneath it and about it ever-present, ultimate factors at work moulding its history. This point of view is never lost sight of by the author, but, on the other hand, it is never allowed to mislead him into the mistakes which would arise from the excessive application of the principle. Ratzel began his scientific career as a zoölogist, and this fact proves his safeguard here. He understands the concept "organism" in all its near and remote relations, and, therefore, he adopts the biologic conception of the state, with full consciousness of the limitation of its application. He discusses this whole question in the first chapter, considers how far a society is a mere aggregate, how far an organism, and comes to the conclusion that the material element welding the component parts of a state together is to be found only in its occupation of a common physical environment. To this fact he attributes the strongly marked tendency to base political organization upon territory.

Particularly interesting is the author's treatment of the development of the connection between land and state. He demonstrates the value of the geographical point of view in his criticism of the "schematic" division of political forms into *societas* and *civitas*, by Morgan, and into "tribe" and "nation" by Brinton. In his opinion, these two systems find no verification in experience among primitive peoples in the past or in the present, for the reason that no tribe or community, however undeveloped, has ever been discovered without a claim or hold upon some land. In Brinton's theory, he calls attention particularly to the lack of any genetic connection between the two great typical epochs of the tribal and national state. Morgan's federation will not explain the transition, for in reality voluntary unions are rare in the history of primitive communities. If Brinton means that through the political alliance of the tribes, the barriers between the tribal states are broken through and their districts so blend into the larger territory of a people or nation, history has no instance of a transition process of this kind. On the other hand there are unnumbered cases where political areas have grown in consequence of increase of population, extension of trade, and, above all, through conquest. These, therefore, are the factors working toward terri-

torial expansion; they have left their indelible stamp on political and social organizations, and are operating in even intenser form to-day. Against them the strongest tribal organization has not been able to hold its own, and without them no national state has ever been formed. All history shows a growing closeness of connection between the land and its people, as the density of population increases and the exploitation of natural resources becomes more stable and intensive, till finally the economic relations of the individuals to the land pass over into the political relations of the whole people. It is just this deepening and extension of the connection between the state and its territory which discloses the artificial character of such classifications as those of Morgan and Brinton.

The last chapter, dealing with the radication of the state in its territory through the work of its individual subjects, affords the most interesting reading in the book. Here the subject-matter is in general more familiar and the principles deduced are more fully illustrated from history, whereas the first part of the book suffers somewhat from paucity of illustration. Especially fine is the author's discussion of nomadic and agricultural peoples, the relation of each to soil and government, the valuation of land and the political form peculiar to each, and the fundamental contrast in their whole inner and outer constitution in consequence of their different occupation and different geographic environment. Furthermore, the question of colonies and colonial policies finds able treatment at his hands. He shows how England's colonial strength lay in the industrial hold of her colonists upon the land, how her conquest of new territory was in reality industrial before it was political; whereas, in contrast, Spain's was a conquest over the new land with its native people and never developed fully to an industrial hold upon the acquired soil by Spanish settlers.

The book is full of broad generalizations, but Professor Ratzel never gets very far from his data and mother earth. He has adhered to the inductive method and has applied it impartially to a large body of facts. This is the final impression left upon the reader. Many of the practical illustrations used are drawn from the economic and political history of our own country, and the authorities quoted are the latest and the best.

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Select Tracts and Documents Illustrative of English Monetary History, 1626-1730. By WM. A. SHAW, M. A. Pp. xiii, 244. London: Clement Wilson, 1896.

As a writer on money Mr. Shaw is not unknown. His recent "History of Currency" made a fair show of learning, and de-